

Department of Human Services
Office of Children's Services
Office of Education
PO Box 710
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0710
Telephone: 609-588-3157
Fax: 609-588-7239

Jon S. Corzine, Governor
Kevin M. Ryan, Commissioner
Debra Stewart, Director

The NJ Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Education (OOE) was created with the passage of NJSA 18A:7B-1 et. seq., the State Facilities Education Act (SFEA). The OOE provides intensive twelve month educational services and supports to children and young adults ages 3 through 21. The severity or uniqueness of their needs requires removal from the public school setting for a period of time. A successful return to school and participation in community life are goals for all OOE students.

These State and federally compliant education programs are designed for students who:

- ◆ exhibit severe cognitive, physical, behavioral and emotional disabilities;
- ◆ exhibit a variety of moderate to severe learning disabilities;
- ◆ are at risk of school failure; and,
- ◆ are pregnant/parenting teens (programs are available for infants/toddlers of parenting teens).

Regular and special education programs are individually designed and provided to these students in the least restrictive environment.

Our students are served in:

- ◆ DHS operated and contracted residential facilities within the Divisions of Mental Health Services, Child Behavioral Health Services, and Youth and Family Services;
- ◆ 18 DHS Regional Schools, and two hospital based satellite programs operated by the OOE including: **TEC (Transitional Education Centers)** programs for at-risk youth, **TEACH (Teen Education and Child Health)** programs for pregnant and parenting

teens, with licensed day care centers for the infants/toddlers of the parenting teens; and

- ◆ a variety of public and private community-based programs.

Educational services include: regular and special education programs, Child Study Team services, related services, educational surrogates, and instructional and assistive technology services.

DHS OOE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

are provided by NJ certified teachers and administrators who encourage our students to SURVIVE and COPE, as well as THRIVE and ENJOY living and working in the real world.

These programs and services reflect a highly relevant **strength-based planning model** designed to:

- ◆ ameliorate the student's problem areas;
- ◆ discover and build upon his/her areas of strength;
- ◆ teach the student self advocacy skills; and,
- ◆ increase his/her self-esteem.

DHS OOE school environments are cheerful, positive, safe, nurturing and supportive: **Small classes** allow teachers to provide individualized instruction and creative learning experiences that increase each student's knowledge base and level of self-confidence.

Educational staff members provide challenging, relevant instructional experiences based on each student's identified needs and abilities.

Real life activities in the classroom, as well as the community, help students develop

social, workplace and academic skills that will result in successful transitions to community life, post-secondary education and the world of work.

Classes are geared to meet the **NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards**, enabling the students to pass the required NJ assessments and earn NJ high school diplomas.

CHILD STUDY TEAM SERVICES

as well as clinical, rehabilitative and transitional services, are integrated within students' educational plans to provide positive supports that assist each student in realizing his/her full potential.

The **Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)** are designed for the special education students, and **Individualized Program Plans (IPPs)**, unique to DHS OOE programs, are developed for regular education students.

As required by NJ Special Education Code, the DHS, OOE Child Study Team Unit works with a cadre of trained **Educational Surrogates**. Volunteers from NJ communities provide educational services to assigned students who are wards of the State of NJ, or whose parents cannot be identified, or do not reside in NJ, and/or cannot be located through reasonable efforts. Educational surrogates protect the educational rights of these students at IEP and other educational planning meetings. **Surrogates do not need educational certification, but must meet the following criteria:**

- ◆ be at least eighteen years of age;
- ◆ participation in required ninety minute OOE training session; and,
- ◆ not an employee of the NJ DHS.

Anyone interested in serving as an educational surrogate is invited to contact the OOE for additional information.

The OOE also serves students who have no NJ District of Residence as determined by the NJ Department of Education (DOE). These **State Responsible students** are placed in public, private and State facility school settings according to their individual educational needs.

OOE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

OOE offers an array of educational opportunities for DHS students and staff.

DHS OOE educational programs have access to a **statewide video conferencing network** that provides opportunities for:

- ◆ video conferences;
- ◆ distance learning;
- ◆ virtual field trips;
- ◆ technical assistance; and,
- ◆ professional development.

The Technology for Life and Learning

Center (TLLC) offers assistive technology services for all students participating in DHS OOE school programs. Specifically, the services are geared toward students with disabilities that effect one or more areas of:

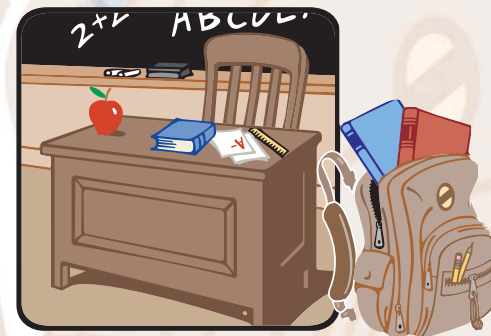
- ◆ communication;
- ◆ learning;
- ◆ academic achievement; and,
- ◆ access to the learning environment and curriculum.

These services are provided at the Office of Education as well as the student's school. The TLLC has two distinct components, **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** and **Assistive Technology Education Achievement Model (ATEAM)**. Both programs include diagnostic and intervention services, enabling students to become proficient users of assistive technology tools and strategies.

The OOE's PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

OOE provides a variety of professional development opportunities for instructional and administrative staff throughout the year. Additionally, partnerships with numerous community and State agencies support educational programming and professional development. An annual conference presented by the OOE for DHS OOE instructional staff provides information and activities specific to the educational needs of our students.

DHS OOE instructional staff and administrators are dedicated to **MAKING a DIFFERENCE** in our students' lives.



**For more information,
please contact us at:**

Office of Education
PO Box 710
Trenton, NJ 08625-0710

Telephone: (609) 588-3157
Fax: (609) 588-7239

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

State Operated Programs DHS Regional Schools

Atlantic Campus, Egg Harbor
Bergen Campus, Paramus
Burlington Campus, Mt. Holly
Cape May Campus, Cape May
Cherry Hill Campus, Cherry Hill
Children's Specialized Hospital,
Mountainside
Cumberland Campus, Vineland
Essex Campus, Newark
Gloucester Campus, Williamstown
Hudson Campus, Secaucus
Mercer Campus, Trenton
Monmouth Campus, Ocean
Morris Campus, Morristown
Ocean Campus, Toms River
Passaic Campus, Totowa
Somerset Campus, Hillsborough
Union Campus, Scotch Plains
Warren Campus, Port Murray
Wanaque Campus, Haskell

Ancora Psychiatric Hospital, Ancora
Ann Klein Forensic Center, Trenton
Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital,
Greystone Park

Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital,
Glen Gardner
Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, Trenton

Ewing Residential Center, Trenton
Vineland Children's Residential Center,
Vineland
Woodbridge Child Diagnostic Treatment
Center, Woodbridge

Support Services for Students

Educational surrogates
Child study teams
Work-based and service learning
Educational and assistive technology
Career assessment
School transition services
Home instruction
Occupational therapy
Physical therapy
Speech therapy
Counseling services
Nursing services
Transportation

New Jersey DHS Office of Education Teachers' Benefits

Professional development
opportunities
Teacher mentoring
Paid holidays
Clothing allowance
Health, dental and vision plans
Prescription drug plan
Life insurance
Pension plan
Deferred compensation plan
Paid leave for annual military
training
Voluntary furlough program
Credit union
Union representation

**There may be additional employment
opportunities within OOE State
contracted programs.**

**For more information, please contact us
at:**

Office of Education
PO Box 710
Trenton, NJ 08625-0710
(609) 588-3157
(609) 588-7239 Fax